HF Happenings 853

Volume 19, Issue 11, the week of 24 June 2019

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp

Southern African Fauna and Flora https://zsfaunaandflora.wordpress.com/

ZS SOTA https://zssota.wordpress.com

Zone 38 Award and others https://zone38award.wordpress.com/

Worldwide List of HF Beacons https://iaruhfbeacons.wordpress.com/

5 MHz (60 metre) allocations http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp

DXCC Approved

The recent 3D2CR DXpedition to Conway Reef has been approved for DXCC credit. According to Club Log's latest - but apparently not final - update, between 1 and 9 June the two operators made 33 828 QSOs with North America (39%), Asia (40%), Europe (15%) and the rest of the world (6%). The most productive band was 20 m (11 005 QSOs); the most productive mode was FT8 (22677 QSOs), followed by CW (7 708) and SSB (3 444).

Already approved for DXCC credit are also the upcoming DXpedition to Banaba Island (T33T) and the A82Z and A82X DXpedition to Liberia (28 September to 11 October).

A grand solar minimum

Frank, W3LPL, posted to the Topband email reflector this week: "This article in *Nature* forecasts that we are approaching a grand solar minimum - similar to Maunder Minimum - starting in 2020 and lasting for three solar cycles. I hope these scientists are wrong." www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-45584-3

Word to the Wise

"Moving Multipliers" - Asking a station you're in a contact with to move to another band where they'd be a multiplier for you. This is most effective when the other station is not busy and should only be done when there's a reasonable expectation that you'll actually be able to make a contact on that different band subject to propagation. You should also agree on a frequency before QSYing to the new band.

Operating Tip

Embrace Automation - "Reducing cognitive load" is just another way of saying that you are fool-proofing common operations by automating them. Automating manual tasks can gain a few seconds here and there, but even more importantly reduces the opportunity for human error in the wee hours.

QSX QRP SSB Transceiver

QRP-Labs principal Hans, G0UPL, designer of the forthcoming QSX (**Q**rp **S**sb **X**ceiver) QRP SSB Transceiver, talked

June

26 to 29 - Innibos Fees, Nelspruit

28 to 30 - Kirkwood Wildsfees

29 – 24th Polar Bear Swim at the Bundu, Ventersburg

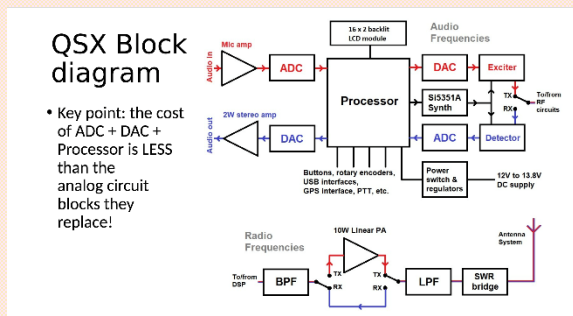30 - End of the SARL Financial Year; International Asteroid Day

July

1 - Start of SARL Financial Year and Membership payment is due; Closing date Top Band logs

6 - Durban July Horse Race; SARL Newbie QSO Party

7 – ZS5 Sprint

9 - Provincial schools open

12 - Washie 100 Miler, Port Alfred to East London

13 - RaDAR Challenge; October RAE registration opens

13 and 14 - IARU HF Championships; Franschhoek Bastille Festival

15 – Commemoration of the Battle of Delville Wood - 15 to 20 July 1916; closing date Newbie and ZS5 logs

16 - Highway ARC Monthly Meeting

17 - Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint

20 - Winter QRP contest

21 - ZS2 Sprint

21 to 23 - Winter Wonderland Festival, Gordon's Bay

25 - Closing date for August Radio ZS

27 and 28 - RSGB Islands on the Air (IOTA) contest

29 - Closing date for RaDAR, QRP and ZS2 Sprint logs

28 to 30 - Winter Wonderland Festival, Gordon's Bay

August

3 – Pretoria ARC Flea Market

4 – SARL HF Phone Contest

9 – National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint

about the design decisions and overall difficulty of bring this transceiver into existence in a number of presentations related to the Hamvention and the Four Days in May (FDIM) event http://qrp-labs.com/dayton2019.html. Materials include a slide presentation, a 26-page paper and a podcast recording of the event. See the linked page for details. QRP-Labs is known for their Ultimate3 beacon kits, used in many high-altitude balloon flights, as well as their QCX QRP CW Transceiver originally developed for the 2017 YOTA Camp. Over 7 200 QCX CW Transceiver kits have been shipped to date.

New IOTA references

During the IOTA Forum at this year's Ham Radio, Roger, G3KMA announced the following six new IOTA groups:

AS-206; JA0, 1, 2, 7, Honshu's Coastal Islands East, Japan

AS-207; R0K, Chukchi Sea Coast Centre group, Chukotskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug, Russia - Asia

OC-298; FO, Tatakoto Atoll, Tuamotu Islands, French Polynesia

OC-299; V6, Yap East group, State of Yap, FSM

OC-300; T31, McKean and Nikumaroro Atolls, Phoenix Islands, Central Kiribati, Kiribati

SA-101; CE0, Alejandro Selkirk Island, Juan Fernandez Archipelago, Chile

For more information see www.iota-world.org/info/new_groups_2019.pdf

African DX

Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award (www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp)

South Sudan, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ will be back to Juba, South Sudan from 22 June to 10 October and be active again as Z81D. In his spare time, he operates FT8 on various bands, 60 m included. QSL via Club Log's OQRS, or via OM3JW. He does not use LoTW.

5X - Anders, SM0HPL is active again as 5X7W from Kampala, Uganda until 6 July. In his spare time, he operates FT8, FT4, JT65 and CW running QRP. QSL via LoTW, or direct to home call; log search on Club Log.

Ghana, 9G. A group of Slovenian operators will be active as 9G5W from Kokrobite between 16 and 27 November. Operators mentioned are Tine, S50A, Leo, S50R, Marko, S51DS, Tone, S51TC, Sergej, S51ZJ, Peter, S54W and Renato, S57UN. Activity will be on 160 - 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They plan to be in the CQ WW DX CW Contest (23 and 24 November). Their equipment contains of three Kenwood TS-590SG with various verticals for 160, 80, 40 and 30 m and two SpiderBeams for 20 – 10 m. QSL via S59ZZ or ClubLog's OQRS. Log will be uploaded to LoTW (usually 6 months later). For more details and updates, see https://www.ghana.si

African Islands

IOTA Frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Tanzania, 5H. Elena, RC5A and Yuri, RM0F will be active from Mafia Island, AF-054 (Tanzania) from 29 September to 5 October 2019 as 5H3CA and 5H3RRC. They will be active on 160 to 10 m using CW and SSB. QSL via RC5A.

Mayotte Islands, FH. Willi, DJ7RJ, will once again be active as FH/DJ7RJ from Mayotte between 15 October and 3 November. Activity will be on 160 - 10 metres with a focus on the lower bands using CW and SSB. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau. NO LoTW or ClubLog.

What Does Operating Assisted Mean?
Brian N9ADG

Every few months it seems we get some new tool or technology to help put more contacts into the log more quickly. Call histories and contact exchange pre-fills, along with spots filling the band map are standard fare and do not even qualify as "assistance" in many contests. Last year, spectrum displays and annotated waterfalls became must-haves for many. Once a new feature is established, more nuanced usages become desirable over time, for example clicking on a call sign can QSY to a frequency automatically, zero-beating or specifically NOT zero-beating the target station at the operator's choice in the hopes of working it as quickly as possible. If internet spots are not voluminous enough, a local skimmer can find those stations that have not been spotted yet.

Will 2019 find contesters selecting specific low-latency spot servers to get spots before their competitors, the way high-frequency traders seek to get closer to stock exchanges? With recent improvements to *N1MM Logger+*, radio spectrum information is digested by the logging program so the computer can quickly find the next empty frequency up or down the band for runs, or tune to frequencies that are in use for searching and pouncing. Probably more quickly than many humans.

Propagation predictions that inform operating strategy are readily available, but perhaps we'll see this information incorporated into a more advanced "Auto Elmer" type feature. A hypothetical "Auto Elmer" considers real-time solar weather inputs, current spot streams, VOACAP models, past logs, and current multipliers worked and multipliers needed to generate actionable suggestions of what the operator should be doing right now instead of what they are doing. The advice feature could present a list of tactics and then execute with just a click, relying on the capabilities of the logging program to, for example tune to a new band, find an empty spot (consulting spot data as well as spectrum data), enter run mode, and start sending the CQ message.

Some might see any additional operator aids or technology improvements like an "Auto Elmer" as a drop of another few feet down the slippery slope to the operator's eventual role of just hitting the "Enter" key at the right time after the computer does everything, while others might see it as a way to be able to help operators to concentrate on operating.

Contest Calendar
This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 17 to 24 June 2019

QCX Challenge
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 24 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 25 June
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: HP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and rig

Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with QCX station; 1 point per QSO with non-QCX station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 2 July 2019
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.qrp-labs.com/party.html

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 26 June
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 28 June 2019
E-mail log summary to: (none)
Post log summary at:
www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 26 June
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 28 June 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC 26 June and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 26 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 27 June
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no
non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 29 June 2019
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 27 June
Geographic Focus: United Kingdom
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: United Kingdom
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RS and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 28 June 2019
Upload log at:
www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2019/r80 mcc.shtml

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 28 June
Geographic Focus: United States
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 20 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 29 June 2019
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 28 June
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 June 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.ncccsprInternationalcom/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 June
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 June 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.ncccsprInternationalcom/rules.html

Feld Hell Sprint
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 29 June
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 3 July 2019
Upload log at:
https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/full-day-of-hell-sprint

Battle of Carabobo International Contest
00:00 - 24:00 UTC 29 June
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: Phone
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Multi-Op All Band - low or high
Max power: HP: 1 000 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: YV: RS(T) and state; Non-YV: RS(T) and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO between YV stations; 5 points per QSO between DX and YV stations; 4 points per QSO between DX stations on different continents; 3 points per QSO between DX stations on same continent; 2 points per QSO between DX stations in same country
Multipliers: Each YV state
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 July 2019
E-mail logs to:
contestbatalladecarabobo@gmail.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: https://www.qrz.com/db/YV4VV

UFT QRP Contest
06:00 - 09:00 UTC and 14:00 - 17:00 UTC 29 June
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP or high

Max power: HP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: RST, QRP/QRO and UFT member no; non-member: RST, QRP/QRO and "NM"
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each UFT member once per band; Each QSO with F8UFT once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 29 July 2019
E-mail logs to: f6cel@orange.fr
Mail logs to: Ghislain Barbasson, 5, rue de l'Ecluse, F-02190 Pignancourt, France
Find rules at:
http://www.uft.net/reglement/eng.pdf

RAC Canada Day Contest
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 1 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, Phone
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op All Band CW; Single Op All Band Phone; Single Op QRP; Single Op Single Band; Single Op Single Band QRP; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Multi
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: VE: RS(T) and province/territory; non-VE: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with non-VE stations; 10 points per QSO with VE stations; 20 points per QSO with RAC stations
Multipliers: Each VE province/territory once per band per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 July 2019
E-mail logs to: canadaday@rac.ca
Mail logs to: Radio Amateurs of Canada, 720 Belfast Road, Suite 217, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 0Z5, Canada
Find rules at: https://wp.rac.ca/rac-canada-day-contest-rules-2019/

10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party
00:01 UTC 1 July to 24:00 UTC 7 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB, PSK31, RTTY, FM, AM
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: Individual; Club; QRP
Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name, 10-10 number and state, province or country; Non-Member: Name, 0 and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a non-member; 2 points per QSO with a 10-10 member
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 15 July 2019
E-mail logs to: tentencontest@ten-ten.org
Upload log at: www.hamclubs.info/scorer/
Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 3162 Covington Way, Lenoir, NC 28645, USA
Find rules at:
www.ten-ten.org/Forms/Spirit.pdf

IQRP Quarterly Marathon
08:00 UTC 1 July to 20:00 UTC 7 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB, Digital
Bands: All
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 5 W
Exchange: RS(T)
Work stations: Once per mode
QSO Points: 3 points per CW QSO; 2 points per SSB QSO; 1 point per digital QSO
Multipliers: km/100 of QSO with maximum distance
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x distance mult
Submit logs by: 21 July 2019
E-mail logs to: iqrpclub@arimontebelluna.it
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.arimontebelluna.it/news/news_maratona_uk.htm

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 1 July
Geographic Focus: United Kingdom
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: United Kingdom

Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 2 July 2019
Upload log at:
www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2019/r80 mcc.shtml

Next Week's Contests

10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 1 July to 24:00 UTC 7 July
IQRP Quarterly Marathon, 08:00 UTC 1 July to 20:00 UTC 7 July
Fireflies QRP 72 Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 2 July
ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 2 July
QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 3 July
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 3 July
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 3 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 4 July
NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW) and 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 4 July (Dig)
SKCC Sprint Europe, 19:00 - 21:00 UTC 4 July
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 5 July
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 5 July
Venezuelan Independence Day Contest, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 6 July
FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint, 00:00 - 04:00 UTC 6 July
DL-DX RTTY Contest, 11:00 UTC 6 July to 10:59 UTC 7 July
Marconi Memorial HF Contest, 14:00 UTC 6 July to 14:00 UTC 7 July
Original QRP Contest, 15:00 UTC 6 July to 15:00 UTC 7 July
PODXS 070 Club 40 m Firecracker Sprint, 20:00 UTC 6 July to 20:00 UTC 7 July

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter